MARVEL COMICS
BEGINNING: A NEW ERA OF GREATNESS FOR...
SPIDER-MAN
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DIRECT EDITION
A NEW MENACE..A PERSONAL MISSION...AND THE VILLAINY OF HOBGOBLIN!
THE ANNIVERSARY SYNDROME!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE ANNIVERSARY SYNDROME

RICHARD STARKINGS letterer
KEVIN TINSLEY colorist
DANNY FINGEROTH editor
TOM DeFALCO editor in chief

take great pleasure in welcoming aboard the titanic new regular team of

HOWARD MACKIE & TOM LYLE story & art
with SCOTT HANNA inker

...as a new era of SPIDER-MAN GREATNESS begins!

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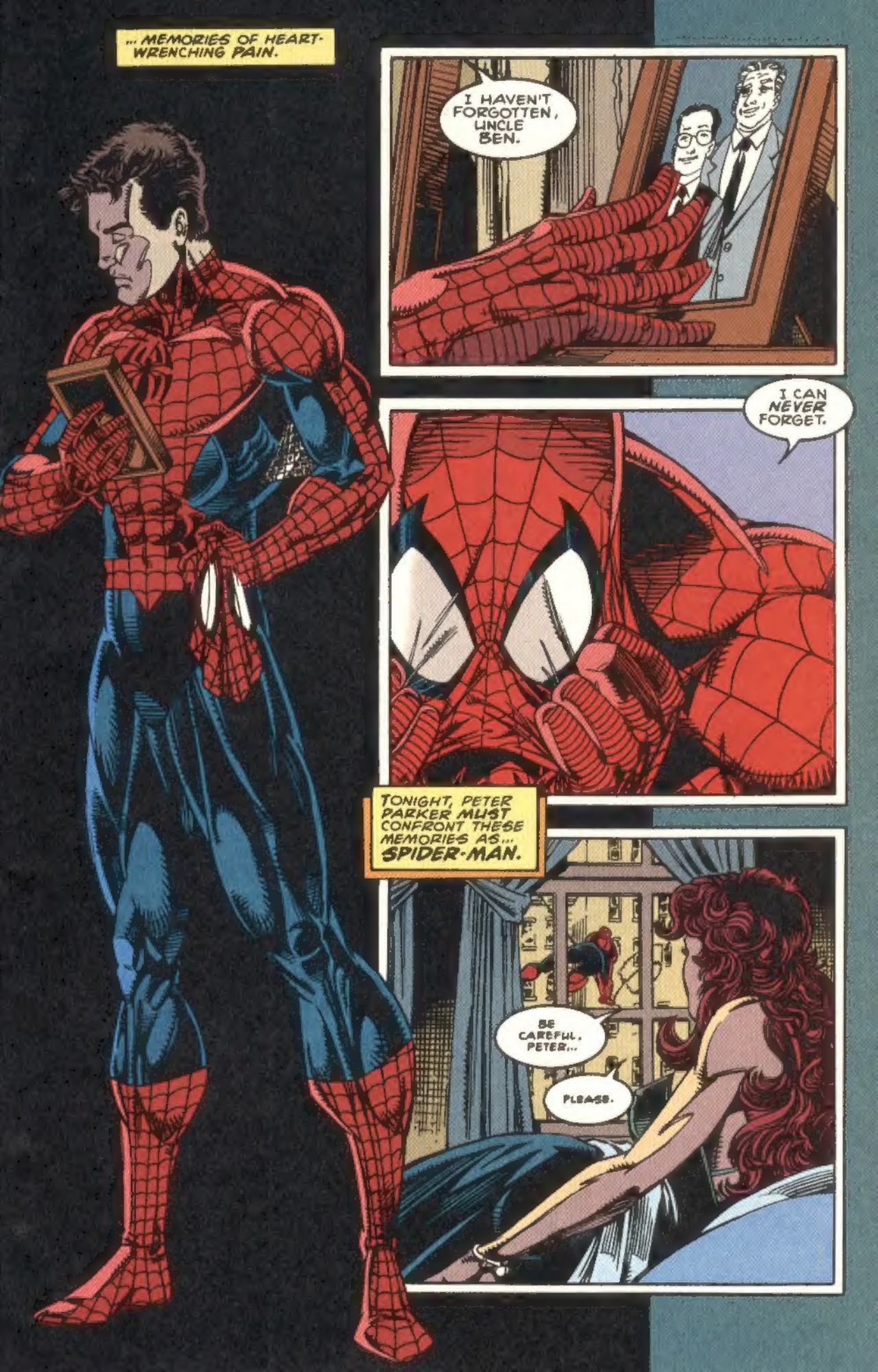
MARY JANE, HIS WIFE, RESTS SOUNDLY.
TONIGHT, THAT IS ENOUGH FOR FOR PETER.
FOR HIM, THIS IS A NIGHT FOR BEING ALONE WITH MEMORIES.
MEMORIES OF WHAT WAS...
... AND WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
MEMORIES OF UNDYING LOVE AND...


... MEMORIES OF HEART-WRENCHING PAIN.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, UNCLE BEN.
I CAN NEVER FORGET.
TONIGHT, PETER PARKER MUST CONFRONT THESE MEMORIES AS... SPIDER-MAN.
BE CAREFUL, PETER...
PLEASE.

HALF PAST TWELVE.
ON THE WEST SIDE OF MANHATTAN...
... A DANGEROUS MAN WAITS IN THE DARKNESS.
FEAR IS NOT AN EMOTION HE HAS COME TO EMBRACE.
CONNOR TREVANE IS A MAN OF FEW OVERT EMOTIONS. A MAN WHO RELIES ON...
...ACTION!
FREEZE!
SPIDER-MAN..? WHY, YOU-- I COULD'VE KILLED YOU!
THWIP
THAT WAS NEVER EVEN A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY!
HOW LONG IS THIS STUFF GOING TO STAY ON MY HAND?
IT FEELS DISGUSTING!
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO PULL A GUN ON YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN.
IT'LL DISSOLVE IN A COUPLE OF HOURS!
MEANWHILE, YOU MIGHT WANT TO LIGHTEN UP ON THE CAFFEINE!

YEAH, SURE.
HERE. I GOT THE INFORMATION YOU WERE LOOKING FOR--
WHAT? NO IDLE CHIT-CHAT?
NOT INTER-ESTED.
I OWE YOU A FAVOR... A BIG ONE... BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN I HAVE TO. I'M NOT GOING TO JEOPARDIZE MY CAREER ANY MORE THAN I AL-READY HAVE.
SO... THIS OPER-ATION YOU ASKED ABOUT...
... NOT WHAT I WOULD'VE EXPECTED YOU TO BE INTERESTED IN. I THOUGHT YOU ONLY WENT AFTER SPANDEX.
LIFE'S FULL OF SURPRISES, TREVANE. BET YOU NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME INTO YOUR LIFE!
NO, I DIDN'T, AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR ME... BUT THIS IS IT!
WE'RE SQUARE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ANY-MORE!
I'M HURT. AND HERE I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL!
GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR SON!
YEAH, RIGHT.

TREVANE IS A GOOD COP.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE ONE OF THEM ON MY SIDE FOR A CHANGE.
I'M JUST SORRY IT TOOK HIS SON GETTING HURT DURING CARNAGE'S RAMPAGE TO GET HIM ON MY SIDE.
I SAVED THE KID'S LIFE AND NOW TREVANE FEELS LIKE HE OWES ME.
HE SAYS WE'RE THROUGH... I CAN ACCEPT THAT, BUT...
...I DON'T THINK HE CAN.
FRANK LEMOYNE. STRAIGHT FROM THAT FILE OF TREVANE'S.
TIME TO SEE HOW GOOD HIS INFORMATION REALLY IS.
HEY!
THWIP
WHAT IS THIS--
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, FRANKIE! I'VE GOT VERY SENSITIVE EARS...

...AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO GO AND *OFFEND* ME, WOULD YOU?
I'LL OFFEND YOU, YOU SON OF--
THWIP
THWAP
SEE! NOW YOU *HAVE* OFFENDED ME!
YOU CAN MAKE IT UP TO ME BY TELLING ME EXACTLY *WHICH BUILDING* YOU WERE HEADING FOR.
I'LL TELL YOU NOTHIN', YOU COSTUMED CLOWN! IF YOU THINK *I'M* AFRAID OF A *WIMP* IN *TIGHTS*... COME HERE AND I'LL TEAR YOUR ARMS OFF!

I DON'T HAVE TO COME DOWN, FRANK!
I CAN STAY UP HERE ALL NIGHT UNTIL YOU ANSWER ME.
THWIP
I'VE GOT A TON OF THIS STUFF.
THWIP
THWIP
HOPE YOU'RE NOT ALLERGIC.
THWIP
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I RUN INTO SOME-ONE WHO IS.
THWIP
THWIP
ALL THAT SWELL-ING...!
OKAY! OKAY! STOP ALREADY! I'LL TELL YOU!
AF-15. BUILDING AF-15.
THANKS, FRANK.
HEY! YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME GO, RIGHT..?
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER, FRANK.

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE.
SENTRIES ON THE ROOF HAVE EVERY DIRECTION COVERED.
I'LL NEED A LITTLE *MIS-DIRECTION* IF I'M GOING TO SNEAK IN STEALTHILY.
AND STEALTH IS ONE OF THE *MANY* THINGS THAT BEING SPIDER-MAN IS ALL *ABOUT.*
STEALTH, THE PRO-PORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER AND...
...A HEFTY DOSE OF RESPONSI-BILITY.
THINK I'LL JUST TOSS ONE OF THESE CRATES...!

SPLOOSH
GUYS, GET YOUR TAILS OVER HERE! I HEARD SOMETHIN'!
THERE'S NOTHING THERE, TOMMY. YOU GETTIN' A LITTLE EDGY, MAYBE?
I'M TELLIN' YOU, RICK, I HEARD SOMETHIN' IN THE WATER!
WELL THERE'S NOTHING THERE NOW.
"EVERYONE BACK INTO POSITION.
"THE MAN DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DISTURB HIS DEAL.
"FRANK WILL BE HERE SOON.
"TILL THEN JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, YOUR MOUTHS SHUT, AND YOUR GUNS READY.
"NOBODY'LL BE STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY AND MOVE IN ON THIS OPERATION."

TOMMY! JOEY! MOVE IT!
FRANK WILL HAVE MY HIDE IF HE SEES YOU ALL STANDIN' AROUND LIKE A BUNCH OF SCHOOL-GIRLS.
MIGHT-NIGHT!

RICKY ?
TOMMY ?
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?
C'MON, THIS AIN'T FUNNY!
FRANKY IS GONNA BE MAD WHEN HE--
WHAT THE--?
JUST A LITTLE LOVE TAP, KID.
PUNK
YOU CAN ALL REST NICE AND QUIET UP HERE. ENJOY THE MOON AND THE FRESH NIGHT AIR.
HEY, YOU EVEN HAVE A RIVER VIEW.
Oh, AND BY THE WAY...
... FRANKY'S NOT COMING.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE GOING ON DOWN IN THE WAREHOUSE.

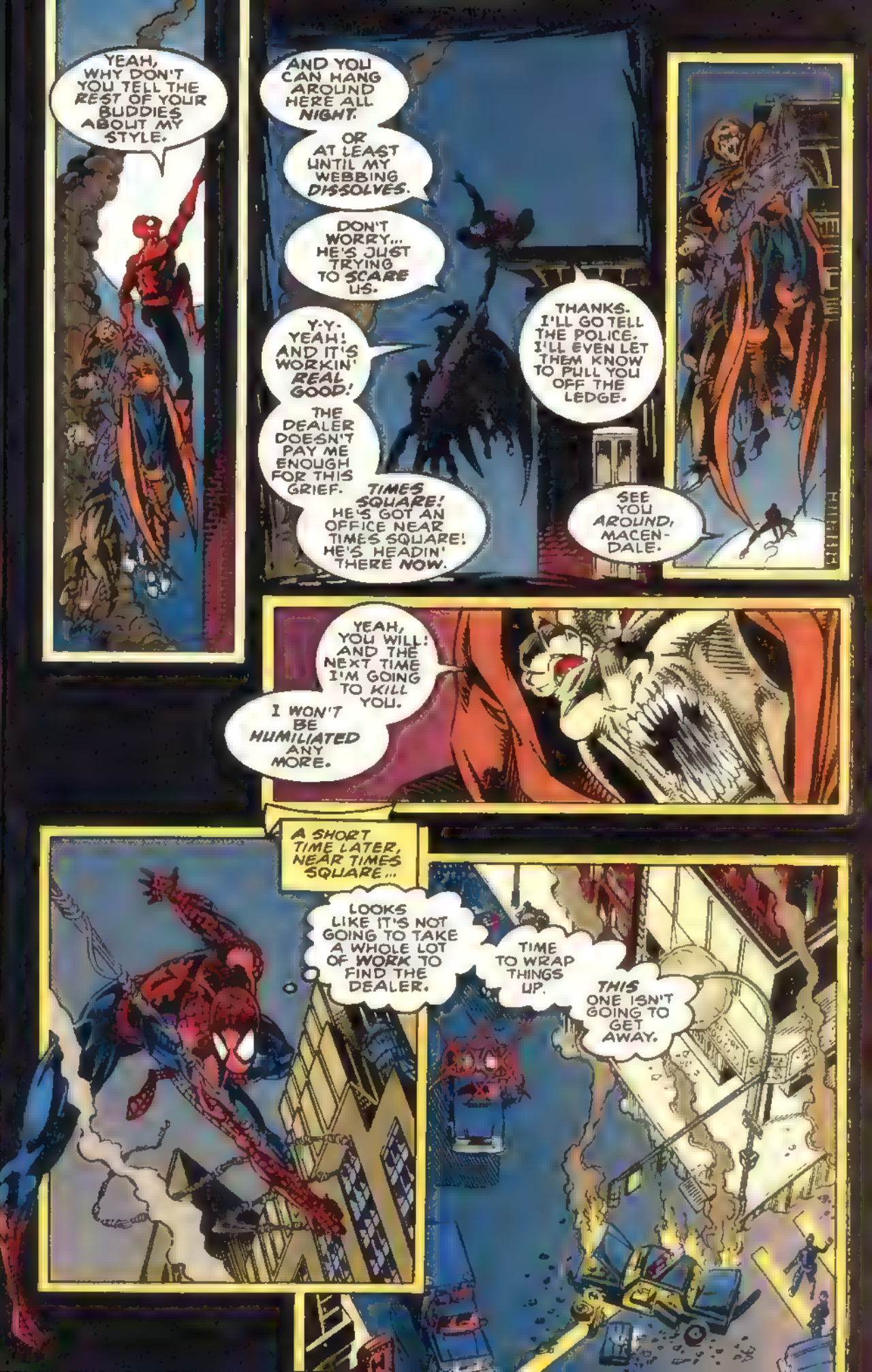
Oh, BOYS! SWAP MEET'S OVER FOR THE NIGHT!
WHAT ARE YOU -- CRAZY?
I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF WORSE.
BUT YOU, GENTLE-MEN?
SOMEBODY WHACK THIS CREEP ALREADY! I'M GETTIN' THE DEALER! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PROVIDIN' SECURITY.
NOT SO FAST! WHO IS THIS DEALER?
OH, GUESS I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT I WEBBED UP THE DOORS.
PLAYING WITH THOSE BIG BAD GUNS IS NUTS!
NOT EVEN THE PUNISHER IS THAT STUPID... ER... WELL... NEVER MIND!

I'M THE DEALER.
AND YOU ARE COSTING ME A LOT OF MONEY WITH THIS INTERRUPTION, MAN!
WILL YOU EVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME?
YO! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET OUT HERE AND TAKE CARE OF THIS BUM! THAT'S WHAT I'M PAYING YOU FOR!
ZHPPPP
RAZOR BAT SLICING THROUGH MY WEBBING--!
LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT HAVE HIT THE JACKPOT TONIGHT.
ONLY ONE PERSON I KNOW OF USES THEM...

...HOBGOBLIN!
MAKE THIS QUICK. I'VE GOT A BUSINESS TO RUN!
IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE!
OF ALL NIGHTS TO STAY OUT OF MY FACE, MACENDALE, TONIGHT IS IT! HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS BEFORE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE JUST NOT IN MY LEAGUE!
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE HELD BACK IN THE PAST.
MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF LOSING TO YOU.
BUT I'VE BEEN THERE. LOST BIG TIME.
NOW I'M REDUCED TO DOING SOME STRONG-ARM WORK FOR GUYS LIKE THE DEALER.

SO TONIGHT IS MAKE OR BREAK FOR ME, SPIDER-MAN...
...I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE!
JUST YOUR DIGNITY, MACENDALE.
AND MAYBE A FEW TEETH.
PLACE IS GOING UP IN FLAMES THANKS TO YOUR PUMPKIN BOMBS.
AND THE DEALER HAS GOTTEN AWAY.
LET'S ROUND UP THE REST OF THE BAD GUYS AND GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU INTERFERE WITH WHAT I'VE GOT TO DO TONIGHT.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I DID GOOD.
THIS OPERATION IS SHUT DOWN PERMANENTLY.
THAT'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF GUNS THAT WON'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
YEAH, I DID GOOD...
... BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
OKAY, MACENDALE, WHERE DO I FIND HIM?
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO TELL YOU?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU BEAT ME... I STILL HAVE MY HONOR!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING. NOW, I'M NOT IN A MOOD TO FOOL AROUND. TONIGHT, SO...
TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO CARES!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HURT US.
IT'S NOT YOUR STYLE.


YEAH, WHY DON'T YOU TELL THE REST OF YOUR BUDDIES ABOUT MY STYLE.
AND YOU CAN HANG AROUND HERE ALL NIGHT.
OR AT LEAST UNTIL MY WEBBING DISSOLVES.
DON'T WORRY... HE'S JUST TRYING TO SCARE US.
Y-Y-YEAH! AND IT'S WORKIN' REAL GOOD!
THE DEALER DOESN'T PAY ME ENOUGH FOR THIS GRIEF.
TIMES SQUARE! HE'S GOT AN OFFICE NEAR TIMES SQUARE! HE'S HEADIN' THERE NOW.
THANKS. I'LL GO TELL THE POLICE. I'LL EVEN LET THEM KNOW TO PULL YOU OFF THE LEDGE.
SEE YOU AROUND, MACENDALE.
YEAH, YOU WILL! AND THE NEXT TIME I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.
I WON'T BE HUMILIATED ANY MORE.
A SHORT TIME LATER, NEAR TIMES SQUARE...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT GOING TO TAKE A WHOLE LOT OF WORK TO FIND THE DEALER.
TIME TO WRAP THINGS UP.
THIS ONE ISN'T GOING TO GET AWAY.

ONE OF OUR UNITS TRIED TO PULL HIM OVER WHEN HE JUMPS OUT THE BACK WITH TWO OF THE BIGGEST GUNS I'VE EVER SEEN!
HE'S IN THE ABANDONED WAREHOUSE. WE CAN'T RISK CHARGING HIM, OR HE'LL PICK US OFF LIKE FLIES.
YOU AND YOUR MEN KEEP THE CROWDS BACK...
...THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO ALONE.
THWIP
A WAREHOUSE. IT FIGURES.
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...
CINEMA
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL DARK. THEN I'LL START BLASTING THE STREET AND KICKING UP SO MUCH SMOKE AND CONFUSION...
...THAT I'LL SLIP RIGHT OUT THE BACK.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ESCAPE, DEALER...
...AND DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT TALKING TO YOURSELF IS A SIGN OF STRESS? YOU SHOULD TRY AND RELAX.
WHAT THE--?!
SURPRISED TO SEE ME?
NO. JUST SURPRISED TO SEE YOU ALIVE! I THOUGHT HOBGOBLIN WOULD--
BAD THOUGHT.
BOOM

GIVE IT UP!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO AND NO PLACE YOU CAN HIDE THAT CAN STOP ME!
I'VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE AT THIS KIND OF THING...
... AND TONIGHT I'M GOING TO GET IT RIGHT.
THE WAY I SHOULD HAVE A LONG TIME AGO.
I REALLY SHOULD THANK YOU...
... IT'S YOUR KIND THAT KEEPS ME GOING.
SHORTLY...
CAPTAIN-- LOOK!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT --?
"--WE HAD SPIDER-MAN ON OUR SIDE!"

THAT'S IT. I'M DONE FOR THE NIGHT.
IT FELT GOOD. AND NOW...
... HOME TO MY WIFE AND NICE WARM BED.
STOP! THIEF!
THERE IT IS ALL OVER AGAIN.
LIKE THE ONE THIEF I LET GET AWAY ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
I WAS TOO BUSY LOOKING OUT FOR MY-SELF.
I HAD THE POWER AND I DIDN'T USE IT.
WHEN I FINALLY CAUGHT HIM...
IT WAS TOO LATE...
THINGS HAVE CHANGED A LOT SINCE THEN.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BUDDY? YOU IN A HURRY?
OOPH! SPIDER-MAN!

NO WAY I'M LETTIN' YOU TAKE ME IN! I'M A FOUR-TIME LOSER AND I'D BE DOIN' SOME SERIOUS TIME.
I'D GET USED TO THAT THOUGHT IF I WERE YOU.
BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU GET AWAY...
... NOT TONIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS.
THANKS, SPIDER-MAN! DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THIS GUY WOULD HAVE GONE ON TO DO IF HE'D GOTTEN AWAY.
YEAH... WHO KNOWS?
HE MIGHT HAVE GONE ON TO BURGLARIZE A HOUSE.
A MAN... A DECENT AND LOVING MAN... MIGHT HAVE SURPRISED HIM IN THE ACT.
THE BURGLAR MIGHT HAVE HAD A GUN...
...AND HE MIGHT HAVE USED IT ON THE MOST DECENT AND GENTLE MAN THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.
BEN PARKER

AND I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH MYSELF IF THAT HAPPENED AGAIN.
ESPECIALLY NOT TONIGHT-- THE ANNIVERSARY OF UNCLE BEN'S MURDER BY A BURGLAR'S GUN.
I'LL KEEP THE GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE CRIMINALS.
KEEP THE DECENT MEN ALIVE.
KEEP ACTING RESPONSIBLY.
FOR YOU, UNCLE BEN.
GOOD NIGHT.
A FEW HOURS LATER...
HI, AUNT MAY! YEAH, PETER'S STILL ASLEEP. HE WAS WORKING AND STUDYING LATE LAST NIGHT.
OF COURSE WE'LL BE THERE LATER TO GO TO THE CEMETERY WITH YOU.
TODAY OF ALL DAYS UNCLE BEN IS IN PETER'S EVERY THOUGHT.
YES, MAY...
... I THINK BEN WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY PROUD OF PETER, TOO!
NEXT: DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE CATACLYSMIC AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #388: "PURSUIT," PART ONE!